



## National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

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# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending May 7, 2006

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*This report can be found on the Internet at*

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_and\\_Condition/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp)

**Good Week for Field Work:** It was an excellent week for field work, but that is not necessarily a good thing. Clear skies throughout the week allowed farmers to do some plowing and planting.

However, without a much needed rain, conditions are starting to decline. Topsoil moisture, as well as other crop conditions, has dropped noticeably. Several farmers are using the no-till transition to fight the battle at the gas pump. More and more weevils were spotted in alfalfa hay patches. The previous week's frost did not seem to hurt any crops. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, hauling and spreading manure, spraying pesticides, cutting hay, planting corn, soybeans, oats and potatoes.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 7, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
20	53	27	0

**Crops:** Spring plowing is now 89 percent complete, well ahead of last year at this time and the 5-year average. Planting for the corn crop is at 58 percent completion, 9 percent ahead of last year's pace. The corn crop has recently begun to emerge and is now at 10 percent. The corn is having a terrific start due to its conditions as 71 percent of the crop has been reported as good or excellent. Soybean planting is at 13 percent, the same as the year before. Fourteen percent of the winter wheat crop is now heading, 2 percent above average. The wheat crop condition, which is doing well, was reported as 64 percent good or better. Planting for oats is nearly complete at 91 percent as 52 percent of the crop has emerged. Both values, for planted and emerged, are ahead of the 5-year average for oats at this time. Sixty-two percent of the oat crop is in either good or excellent condition. Potato planting is going slower than last year at 38 percent compared to the 52 percent planted a year ago. Cutting for hay has started as 8 percent of the first cutting for alfalfa is complete.

All fruits for Pennsylvania are now considered to be in full bloom. Apples have recently reached full bloom at 100 percent, far ahead of 2005's estimate and the 5-year average for the time. Despite the

previous week's late frost, peach conditions are doing very well as 73 percent of the total peaches are viewed as good or excellent.

**Livestock:** Pastures, like most of the farm land, are starting to dry out. Without a good rain, grass growth remains at low level. However, more and more farmers continue to move livestock into pastures. This week's pasture conditions are the following: 7 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

**U.S. as of May 2, 2006:** Damage to wheat, if any, occurred on fields with already reduced yield potential due to drought. Elsewhere, corn and early-season soybean planting gradually progressed, despite cool weather, in the eastern Corn Belt. Nevertheless, the moisture was generally beneficial for emerging summer crops. Early in the week, heavy rain soaked the Northeast.

**Corn:** Planting advanced to 52 percent complete, 3 percentage point ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of normal. Despite periods of heavy rainfall in the Corn Belt, planting progressed rapidly during the week. Progress was ahead of normal in most States. Meanwhile, 13 percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 12 percent last year and 11 percent for the 5-year average.

**Soybeans:** Growers had planted 10 percent of their acreage, 2 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. In many states, like Pennsylvania, progress was limited to single-digit percentages.

**Winter Wheat:** Thirty-nine percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, compared with 27 percent last year and 26 percent for the 5-year average.

**Small Grains:** Barley growers had planted 34 percent of their acreage, 16 points behind last year and 9 points behind normal. Eight percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 14 percent last year and 16 percent for the 5-year average. Oat planting, at 77 percent complete, was the same as last year but 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was over 70 percent complete and at or ahead of normal in all States. Emergence advanced to 47 percent, compared with 49 percent last year and 43 percent for the normal. Emergence had begun in all States and was ahead of normal everywhere.

# Weather Data For Week Ending May 7, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 7, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	75	32	57	5	0.00	0	2.94	-1.03	14	159	95	413
Franklin	80	30	57	5	0.23	1	3.27	-1.06	14	147	84	439
Meadville	74	33	57	6	0.06	2	2.14	-1.94	12	158	110	431
Mercer	77	29	56	4	0.41	2	3.85	-0.30	15	149	84	436
Springboro	75	27	55	3	0.05	1	3.80	-0.05	14	114	45	358
Warren	78	30	56	4	0.00	0	3.56	-0.81	15	120	66	385
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	74	23	52	4	0.06	2	3.10	-1.12	16	86	55	313
Emporium	79	34	56	7	0.00	0	3.88	-0.46	15	105	68	396
Kane	75	24	51	3	0.02	1	3.05	-1.43	13	48	19	271
Laporte	76	32	55	3	0.00	0	2.83	-1.28	13	98	24	348
Lock Haven	84	33	59	5	0.00	0	2.84	-1.01	12	160	78	475
Port Allegany	75	26	53	3	0.00	0	2.68	-1.24	11	78	36	317
Renovo	83	32	59	5	0.00	0	2.57	-1.28	13	161	79	470
Ridgway	76	29	53	3	0.04	1	3.36	-0.98	14	75	38	329
Stevenson Dam	79	32	57	7	0.00	0	2.56	-1.78	12	139	102	445
Towanda	84	29	55	2	0.02	1	1.96	-1.71	11	108	34	381
Wellsboro	76	30	54	5	0.00	0	2.72	-0.28	12	83	50	322
Williamsport	83	33	59	5	0.00	0	2.41	-1.63	11	187	73	504
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	78	29	53	3	0.00	0	3.88	-0.40	10	70	27	315
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	79	32	58	4	0.00	0	3.15	-0.59	10	179	89	475
Susquehanna	79	31	54	5	0.00	0	3.64	-0.85	13	86	50	341
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	75	30	56	3	0.12	2	3.81	-0.23	15	147	68	452
New Castle	77	31	58	5	0.17	2	3.68	-0.08	15	205	138	515
Slippery Rock	76	30	57	5	0.15	3	3.70	-0.21	17	170	112	473
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	79	35	59	5	0.00	0	1.81	-2.13	11	204	101	521
DuBois	73	30	56	3	0.01	1	3.73	-0.45	16	153	91	436
Lewistown	82	36	59	3	0.00	0	3.11	-0.67	15	197	67	520
Middletown	80	40	62	5	0.00	0	3.16	-0.99	13	268	114	608
Prince Gallitzi	79	28	54	2	0.00	0	3.35	-1.94	15	108	51	389
Selinsgrove	84	35	58	4	0.00	0	3.35	-0.63	13	158	58	473
State College	82	39	61	7	0.00	0	2.61	-1.05	13	220	133	542
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	81	36	59	4	0.00	0	3.19	-1.24	14	212	94	536
Lehighton	81	36	58	3	0.00	0	3.39	-0.82	16	162	52	467
Matamoras	80	33	55	2	0.00	0	3.96	-0.98	15	107	20	375
Tobyhanna	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	74	37	60	5	0.07	1	2.87	-1.25	14	267	162	598
Derry	76	31	57	4	0.12	1	3.92	-0.22	14	180	105	488
Myersdale	73	27	51	-4	0.10	1	3.84	-1.09	16	71	-6	342
Mount Pleasant	75	29	55	4	0.08	1	3.52	-1.52	14	150	94	453
Pittsburgh Intl	74	34	59	4	0.03	1	3.15	-0.77	13	258	140	579
Rector	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Waynesburg	74	31	56	2	0.16	2	2.55	-1.76	15	184	92	498
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	81	37	60	3	0.00	0	3.45	-0.75	13	235	81	572
Everett	79	32	55	2	0.00	0	3.48	-0.69	14	131	40	445
Hanover	80	35	59	2	0.00	0	3.94	-0.26	16	222	68	553
Shippensburg	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
South Mountain	76	34	56	2	0.00	0	3.75	-0.19	14	148	49	450
York	80	33	58	1	0.00	0	3.63	-0.80	13	216	57	541
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	82	38	60	5	0.00	0	3.59	-1.04	13	209	101	537
Hamburg	83	37	61	7	0.00	0	3.57	-1.29	16	239	159	565
Hopewell	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	80	35	60	4	0.00	0	3.71	-0.56	13	233	111	567
Neshaminy Falls	81	33	57	2	0.00	0	4.06	-0.94	12	170	51	500
New Holland	81	39	61	5	0.00	0	3.81	-0.46	13	235	113	565
Philadelphia	82	46	64	5	0.00	0	3.72	-0.77	10	332	159	689
Philadelphia NE	82	40	62	4	0.00	0	3.76	-0.73	12	314	141	666
Reading	82	38	61	6	0.00	0	4.01	-0.78	14	247	140	578
Valley Forge Na	84	30	59	1	0.00	0	3.33	-1.31	12	218	55	550
Willow Grove	81	40	61	6	0.00	0	2.40	-2.60	10	255	136	597

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA)** - Adams County continues to be extremely dry. No rain was received the past week. Daytime temps were in 70's with some days hitting 80 degrees. Nighttime temps were 40-50 degrees except on Saturday temps dipped to 30 degrees with frost.

Corn and soybeans are being planted now in the county. Fieldwork continues to prepare fields for planting. Wheat, barley and rye are now being harvested for silage. Wheat and barley for grain are getting a little taller now. Could use some moisture though.

Apples are done blooming in the county. Fruit looks good for now. The nighttime temps are still critical to the fruit crops. Some strawberries are being harvested that are grown with plastic and/or in greenhouse.

Hay is now starting to grow some but needs moisture. The forecasts are calling for some moisture this coming week so we will have to wait and see if we get any. Overall crops look ok for now in the county but ponds and groundwater need to be replenished for future uses.

**ADAMSCOUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - It appears that the apple crop will be about average, but the bloom was ahead of normal. No cold weather has affected any of the fruit thus far. Most of the early corn has been planted. Now waiting on warm weather to spur growth. No beans have been planted locally. Some alfalfa taken off this week.

**BERKS COUNTY, Theresa Tracey (FSA)** - Another dry week in Berks County. Corn planting continued ahead of schedule due to dry spring. Some soybean planting started. Spring plowing completed. Alfalfa stands looking good.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Another week without rain. Top soil moisture is very low. Hay crop will be low if we don't get rain soon.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - Lack of rain becoming an issue. Crops going in rapidly but need rain. Could become an issue with spraying also if it doesn't activate and need to respray.

**COLUMBIACOUNTY, John O Yocum** - The top 4" of soil is dry, the there is some moisture deeper.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Field conditions have been excellent for getting fields prepared and crops planted. Dry conditions have made lime and fertilizer spreading much easier this season. Due to the increase in fuel costs this year, more farmers are making the transition to no-till as a way to combat the increase in costs associated with tilling and planting.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl** - Planting corn and soybeans, mowing hay, applying herbicides.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)** - Corn and soybean planting continuing at rapid pace. No till soils have ideal planting conditions, conventional tilled ground is rapidly drying out and dry conditions may impact germination. Alfalfa is short but ready to be harvested. Increasing reports of locally high alfalfa weevils. Scouting of every field is needed before applying controls. Growers will need to watch regrowth for feeding damage of weevil larva prior to their pupation. Very dry conditions across Dauphin County.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, James Collom** - No measurable rainfall for the past two weeks has soils much in need of precipitation.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The freeze more than likely damaged the peach and apple crops. Many farmers are well ahead of spring planting this year compared to prior years. If we soon don't get precipitation, between the frost and dry conditions, crop production could be in trouble.

**FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas** - Surface conditions are rapidly drying to point of concern here. I have very serious doubts if residual chemicals already applied will have enough moisture to activate them.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT)** - Corn is emerging in about 8 days. Good conditions for getting work done, but we really need some rain to get things growing.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - Dry weather and alfalfa weevil lowering hay quality; also slowing corn emergence.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT)** - Good week for field work. Early planted corn stands are good. Frosts early in the week caused some freezing of apple blossoms.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill** - Many corn fields are up and looking good; however, I have seen several farmers rotary hoeing conventional ground to break up the crust on top and probably incorporate herbicide.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - Great week for field work. Corn was planted all week. Orchard grass, wheat and barley are beginning to head, rye is being mowed for straw. Still waiting for rain to get things growing.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - Great week for field work. Corn is being planted and sprayed. Hay and pasture are short. Need to get rain soon. Chilly in the mornings but warms up fast when the sun comes up.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA)** - It has been much warmer than usual this spring. Oats have been, for the most part, timely planted. Corn is going in the ground - some earlier than normal. However, we could use some rain. It certainly is not critical at this point and some fields still have wet spots but a gentle rain would be welcome by everyone.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS)** - Producers tell me that the fields are dry compared to past years. More rain would help the crop's development.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Cool and dry conditions continue making for slow crop growth and excellent planting progress. Corn and soybean planting is well ahead of normal. Grass growth has been slowed because of the lack of rainfall.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 7, 2006**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	89	83	73
Corn, planted	58	49	41
Corn, emerged	10	7	8
Barley, heading or headed	81	49	53
Wheat, heading or headed	14	7	12
Oats, planted	91	93	81
Oats, emerged	52	41	46
Soybeans, planted	13	13	9
Potatoes, planted	38	52	44
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	8	2	1
Apples, in full bloom or past	100	73	68

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 7, 2006**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	1	28	47	24
Wheat	2	6	28	48	16
Oats	0	6	32	53	9
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	4	29	43	24
Timothy clover stand	3	8	39	43	7
Quality of hay made	0	0	22	3	75
Pasture	7	21	49	20	3
Peaches	0	0	27	2	71

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